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Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00
NSC-05 OES-02 OMB-01 SNM-02 TRSE-00 ICA-01 ABF-01
A-01 /045 W
----------032040 080241Z /70
R 070320Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9178
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0426

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4
TAGS: SNAR LA
SUBJECT: UNFDAC PROGRAM IN LAOS

1. GUNNAR ASPLUND, THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN LAOS, TOLD THE CHARGE APRIL 6 THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAD INDICATED TO HIM THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERING EXPELLING ALEXANDRE ARNAUD, THE HEAD OF THE UNFDAC-SUPPORTED ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN THE LPDR. ASPLUND DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY THE LAO WISHED TO BE RID OF ARNAUD, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT IT HAD TO DO WITH HIS PERSONAL BEHAVIOR.

2. ASPLUND ASKED WHAT THE U.S. REACTION WOULD BE TO SUCH A MOVE. HE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE MAJOR U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC, HE THOUGHT HE SHOULD GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO U.S. VIEWS BEFORE RESPONDING TO THE LAO INITIATIVE.
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3. THE CHARGE TOLD ASPLUND THAT WE HAD BEEN UNHAPPY WITH SOME ASPECTS OF ARNAUD'S PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY HIS APPARENT READINESS TO ACQUIESCE IN LAO EFFORTS TO CIRCUMVENT OR IGNORE THE DUAL REHABILITATION AND CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECT AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST NOVEMBER. THE CHARGE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD NOTED THAT

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DESPITE ARNAUD'S CHARM, HIS STATEMENTS WERE OFTEN UN-RELIABLE. HE ALSO HAD A PENCHANT FOR DENOUNCING HIS COLLEAGUES AND SUPERVISORS IN A SEEMINGLY UNFOUNDED AND VINDICTIVE FASHION. THE CHARGE SAID THAT THE U.S. WAS MOST INTERESTED IN THE LAO UNFDAC PROGRAM, HOWEVER, AND HE WOULD THUS LIKE TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL COMMENT AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON BEFORE COMMENTING OFFI-CIALLY ON ASPLUND'S REQUEST FOR A REACTION TO THE LAO MOVE.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOME COMMENT WHICH WE COULD OFFICIALLY PASS ON TO ASPLUND. FROM THE EMBASSY'S VIEWPOINT, ARNAUD HAS PROBABLY BEEN A NET NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON OUR LONG-TERM DRUG-CONTROL INTERESTS IN THE LPDR. HIS SUDDEN REMOVAL WILL CAUSE SOME DIFFICUL-TIES, BUT HOPEFULLY THEY WOULD BE OF SHORT DURATION AND HOPEFULLY HE COULD BE REPLACED WITH A MORE DISCREET, MORE RELIABLE, AND GENERALLY MORE EFFECTIVE UNFDAC PROGRAM HEAD. ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SNAR, LA, (ARNAUD, ALEXANDRE)
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Type: TE
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